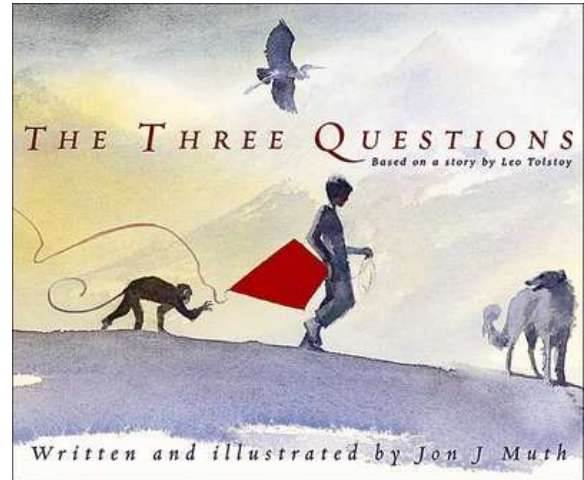


Sunday Storytellers

The Three Questions

Written and Illustrated by Jon Muth
Based on a story by Leo Tolstoy

Summary - Nikolai is a boy who believes that if he can find the answers to his three questions, he will always know how to be a good person. His friends--a heron, a monkey, and a dog--try to help, but to no avail, so he asks Leo, the wise old turtle. "When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do?" Leo doesn't answer directly, but by the end of Nikolai's visit, the boy has discovered the answers himself. Muth based his story on a short story of the same title by Leo Tolstoy.



Sunday Morning:

Introductions -- Around the Room. Share names and answer the question: *What is your favorite animal and why?* When you're finished going around, can anyone remember everyone's name and favorite animal?

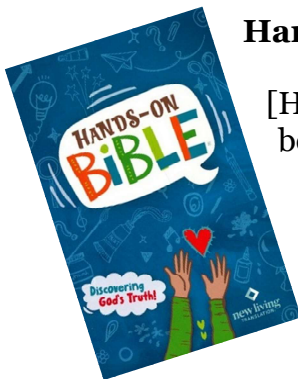
I'm glad you're thinking about animals because today we're going to read a book about a boy who has three questions that are puzzling him. His animal friends help him find the answers...

Read the Book – Read it “librarian style” with pictures out. Make sure everyone gets a chance to observe the pictures before turning the page.

Wondering Questions

- I wonder what part of the story you liked the best?
- I wonder what part of the story is the most important?

Hands-On Bible



[Have the slips of paper on page 3 in this document ready to go – see below.]

If there's a large enough group, break into three smaller groups (make sure at least one older child is in each). Stay together if you don't have enough children for small groups.

Hand out the Bibles and then one slip of paper with the Bible verse on it to each group/person. They will need to find the Bible verse that answers their question. Remind the kids to start in the Table of Contents... While they are looking for their verses, write the three questions on a whiteboard or on flip-chart paper:]

1.) ***When is the best time to do things?***

2) ***Who is the most important one?***

3) ***What is the right thing to do?***

[When all three groups have found their Bible verse, go back to the flip-chart page.]

1.) ***When is the best time to do things?*** [Ask the 1st group/person to share the Bible verse they found out loud and then you can add it to the whiteboard or flip-chart page under question 1.]

“Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.”
[2 Corinthians 6:2]

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2) ***Who is the most important one?*** Who’s the most important one according to the Bible? ...” [Ask the 2nd group/person to share the Bible verse they found out loud and then add it to the whiteboard or flip-chart page under question 2.]

“Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”

[Mark 9:35]

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3) ***What is the right thing to do?*** Let’s see what the Bible has to say... [Ask the 3rd group/person to share the Bible verse they found and then add it to the whiteboard or flip-chart page under question 3.]

“[The Golden Rule:]

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.”

[Matthew 7:12]

Craft – Try painting watercolors in the style of the book’s illustrations. Please be sure to have heavy paper, suitable for watercolors on-hand. Here’s an example of mixing watercolors with salt:

<https://youtu.be/YS8RdxQrw4c>



Here are the slips of paper for the Hands-On Bible activity:

1) When is the best time to do things?

FIND: 2 Corinthians 6:2

[Hint: Note that there is a 1 Corinthians too!]

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2) Who is the most important one?

FIND: Mark 9:35

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3) What is the right thing to do?

FIND: Matthew 7:12



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